

**Town of La Pointe**  
**Special Town Board Meeting**  
Friday, November 13, 2015  
4:00 pm at Town Hall  
**Approved Minutes**

**Present:** Jim Patterson, Mike Anderson, John Carlson, Michael Childers, Mike Starck

**Staff present:** Lisa Potswald, Barb Nelson, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne

1. Call to order: at 4:00pm

2. Discuss Alternative Energy Committee Grant Opportunity for Submission:

The grant is from the State of Wisconsin for a solar array that would service the Clinic and the Library. The land value of the location for the array is valued at \$175,000, the staff costs and supplies would be around \$3500 with a maximum grant available for \$75,000. The grant is due on November 18, 2015 and all work must be done and paid by May 26, 2016. Discussion on the tight timeline for the completion of the work, especially not knowing what the weather or transportation will be like. The board would like to move forward with submitting the grant application and see how much money is available prior to deciding if it is feasible to complete it by the end of May. Motion to authorize Chair J. Patterson to sign the grant application, M. Starck/ M. Childers, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

3. Review and Discussion; End of 2015 Budget and 2016 Budget:

Changes made since the last budget meeting include reducing expenditures by \$67,141 with making the Zoning Administrator position half time, removing the request for a new parks supervisor (\$28,319), reducing the Town Administrator wages by \$11,815, adding in the volunteer ambulance and fire insurance policy, reducing the library request by \$5,000, and adding in MRF capital outlay of \$10,000. Revenues were also increased by \$79,472 by replacing \$20,000 that was going to be used for Fire/ EMS roof, but that will now be financed, not clearing out the designated funds, increasing the tax levy to 2014/2015 level (increase of \$84,918), and applying \$49,680 to the cash balance. Revenues will also increase by \$32,705 when the payment arrives for the Big Bay Town Park reservations.

\$186,000 will be borrowed to purchase capital equipment as well as replace the Fire/ EMS roof. It is estimated that there will be about \$218,496 in the checkbook at the end of this year, assuming the Big Bay Town Park grants are finalized and payment is received.

Tax Levy will be increase over the allowable limit, but it is still the same levy as 2014/2015. The increase on \$100,000 is \$39.00.

Discussion on wage increases, many employees asked for higher wages that the 1% increase given this year, and with the budget looking good now, can the Board honor those increases? It was mentioned that there are many employees who are doing a great job; some asked for raises, others did not.

Motion to reinstate the wage requests for T. Pallas, C. Baxter, K. Larsen, and A. Hage, M. Starck/ M. Childers. Continued discussion on how merit raises should be based on performance reviews, and it was discussed that it might be a good idea to leave the wages at 1% but set aside some money to be for merit raises to those individuals who deserve it. It was also brought up that

Ashland County went with a \$0.40 increase to all employees instead of a percentage so that those with higher salaries weren't gaining more income than those with lower wages.

M. Starck amended his motion to put \$20,000 into a designated fund managed by the Town Administrator to be used for merit increases after performance evaluations are done. Second by M. Anderson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Other items mentioned include that legislation went into effect Friday November 13, 2015 that the townspeople no longer have to approve the highway expenditures. And looking ahead, L. Potswald would like to start looking at the budget two to three years ahead and look more closely to capital equipment and capital improvement plans.

4. Schedule Budget Meetings: B. Nelson will rerun the numbers and prepare budget reports that will be presented to the townspeople for the meeting for approval on November 17, 2015. Discussion on what reports the Town Board wants as well as what they see as important to provide to the townspeople. There will be a budget book available to the public that will have the summary sheets, as well as department worksheets, wage information and designated funds balances.

5. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, M. Childers/ M. Anderson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.  
Adjourned at 4:57pm.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk.  
Approved as submitted, November 24, 2015.